



Inside Illinois DNR

September 2018

Volume 6, Number 9

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IDNR Careers

IDNR offers a wide array of professional careers in the conservation and natural resource arena. Click [here](#) to see what jobs openings are available.

A Message from Director Wayne Rosenthal



As Illinois' busy fall hunting seasons begin, I want to thank Governor Bruce Rauner for his support of new laws to enhance hunter safety, and to increase penalties for illegal hunting in the state. The Governor signed the new laws during a ceremony at Conservation World at the Illinois State Fair.

For many years, hunters in Illinois have been required to wear a blaze orange cap and upper outer garment displaying a minimum of 400 square inches of blaze orange during gun deer seasons, and while hunting upland game with a firearm. The new amendment to the Wildlife Code signed by the Governor (House Bill 4231), which takes effect on Jan. 1, 2019, adds a solid blaze pink color option.

The addition of blaze pink was supported by the Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus.

Whether hunters select blaze orange or blaze pink, we want hunters to be able to see, and be seen by, other hunters in the field, and enjoy their time afield safely. This blaze pink option should help do that. We thank the lead sponsors – Rep. Dave Severin (R-Benton) and Sen. Neil Anderson (R-Andalusia) – for their support of the bill, which passed unanimously in both chambers.

The Governor also signed legislation to increase the penalties for illegal hunting – raising the restitution value of game species including white-tailed deer in Illinois. The new law specifies enhanced penalties for illegally taking antlered deer. Violators can be required to pay restitution to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources of \$1,000 per antlered deer, with an additional \$500 per antler point for deer with at least eight but not more than 10 points, and an additional \$750 per point for deer with 11 or more antler points.

This amendment to the Wildlife Code (House Bill 5317) took effect immediately. Thanks to sponsors Rep. Jerry Costello (D-Smithton) and Sen. Napoleon Harris (D-Harvey) for their support of the bill, which was approved without opposition in both the Illinois House and Senate.

In his remarks at the bill-signing ceremony, Governor Rauner said, "Poaching is a serious crime and should be punished accordingly. Illegal hunting hurts legitimate sportsmen...and harms Illinois' wildlife population."

The Governor also saluted the work of the Illinois Conservation Police in protecting the state's wildlife and natural resources, and in protecting those who enjoy spending time outdoors.

Thanks again to Governor Rauner and members of the General Assembly for their support of our outdoor recreation opportunities in Illinois.

Wayne Rosenthal

DNR in the news

**Preserving the
Natural
Environment**

**Youth Deer Hunt
at Kankakee SP**

Mahomet Aquifer

**Volunteers of the
Year**

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Chicago, IL
312-814-2070

Highlights



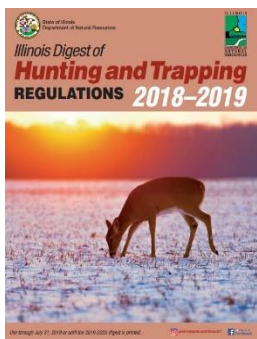
Last Opportunity for Free Overnight Stay at Starved Rock Lodge

Starved Rock State Park is seeking visitor input. Now your input can help us plan for the park's future. If you have visited Starved Rock, please take a few minutes to help us plan for the park's future by sharing your experience as a visitor. What facilities, activities and services would you like the park to provide, and what you would improve? Take an online survey, and enter your contact information at the end of the survey for a chance to win an overnight stay, breakfast and trolley tour! [For more information click here](#)



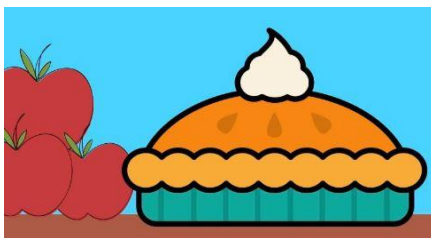
Business Opportunity at Beaver Dam State Park

Beaver Dam State Park is located 7 miles south of Carlinville. The current concessionaire is leaving the state and will be closing on October 31. IDNR is looking for someone to operate the Restaurant, Boat Rental, Camp Store and Bait Shop. A lease assignment may potentially be available to a qualified vendor prior to 12/31/18. After that date, the concession opportunity will be competitively bid. If interested, please contact Von Bandy at IDNR Concessions at 217-785-5859 or von.bandy@illinois.gov. Interested parties can also reach out to the current concessionaire at 217-854-8020 or 217-854-6688. They are interested in selling all their equipment to potentially make this a turnkey operation. [For more information click here](#)



2018-2019 Digest of Hunting & Trapping Regulations is online

For information on Illinois hunting and trapping seasons and regulations, see the *Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2018-2019*. Copies will be available where IDNR license and permits are sold. [For more information click here](#)



Pere Marquette State Park Lodge Apple Festival

The Pere Marquette State Park Lodge Apple Festival is Sunday, September 23 from 11:00 a.m. – 3 :00 p.m. Warm apple pie, hand-dipped caramel apples, handmade crafts, live music and fresh produce are just a few of the offerings at the Apple Festival at Pere Marquette. The festivities will also include wine tasting, kid's activities and restaurant favorites. [For more information click here](#)

Check out these amazing time-lapse videos of Illinois' [Great State Parks](#)



2018 Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame Gala

Congratulations
inductees!

Join ICF on
Friday,
September 21 for
Illinois
Conservation
Foundation's
annual Illinois
Outdoor Hall of
Fame Gala at the
historic Inn at 835.

Located at 835 S.
2nd Street in
Springfield

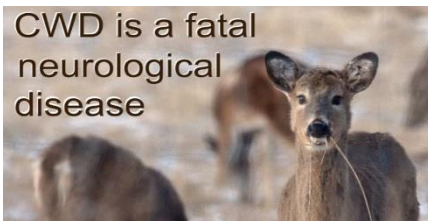
Cocktails from
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Dinner and
Program
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Visit ICF

Highlights

CWD is a fatal
neurological
disease



(CWD), its effect on future deer populations, and IDNR's efforts to control the disease. IDNR staff will also be available to answer questions about this disease. Landowners, hunters, and concerned citizens are encouraged to attend. CWD is an important issue that will dominate deer management discussions in northern Illinois for many years. [For more information click here](#)

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Public Informational Meetings

IDNR has scheduled a series of public meetings to provide information about Chronic Wasting Disease



Non-toxic Shot Requirements in Effect at Additional Illinois Hunting Sites

As they head to the field this fall, the IDNR reminds hunters of new requirements for use of non-toxic shot at several IDNR sites for dove, controlled pheasant, and upland game hunting, effective for the 2018-19 season. Many IDNR sites have required use of non-toxic shot in recent years. Lead shot has been banned for waterfowl hunting by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1991. Non-toxic shot is required for use at all IDNR sites for hunting waterfowl, coots, snipe, and rail. [For more information click here](#)



IDNR Accepting Applications for OSLAD and LWCF Grant Programs

Applications are being accepted for grants through the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant programs. The OSLAD program is a state-financed grant program that provides funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and/or development of land for public outdoor recreation areas. OSLAD is a matching program that provides an advance payment (for development projects only) that is 50 percent of the grant award amount shortly after the grant agreement is executed. The local agency must demonstrate and possess the ability to finance the remaining costs of an approved project prior to receipt of remaining grant funds. This program is funded through a percentage of the state's Real Estate Transfer Tax. [For more information click here.](#)



Open House – IDNR Concession Business Opportunity at Red Hills State Park

On Thursday, September 13, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., IDNR is hosting an open house at Red Hills State Park for individuals or private firms interested in operating the park concession. IDNR is looking for someone to operate the restaurant, with additional potential opportunity for a bait shop, camp store and boat rental. Red Hills is in Lawrence County, in Sumner, IL on U.S. Route 50. Please contact Von Bandy at IDNR Concessions, 217-785-5859 or von.bandy@illinois.gov or contact Tony Holtschlag with Red Hills State Park at 618-936-2469. [For more information click here](#)

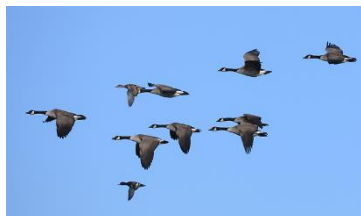


Kid's Day-Archaeology at Dickson Mounds Museum

Celebrate Illinois' Archaeology Awareness Month with this fun hands-on program! Participants may enjoy learning about how archaeologists study the ancient past through the techniques and tools commonly used at an excavation. Learn about how these scientists "read" the artifacts they find and how these items are sorted, catalogued, stored and used to tell stories of the past. This free event is September 15 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. [For more information click here](#)

Illinois Harvest Super Saturday

The harvest in Illinois marks the coming of fall. Families can learn about the Illinois harvest through crafts, games, and more on Super Saturday at the Illinois State Museum on Sat., September 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Create your own bean mosaic, get creative with fruit and vegetable stamping, and learn about historic harvest in Illinois through an interactive game. Super Saturdays offer thematic activities recommended for children ages 5 and up each month. Activities take 30-40 minutes to complete and are included with Museum admission. Parents and families are encouraged to participate. For additional information, please contact events@illinoisstatemuseum.org or 217-558-6696. [For more information click here](#)



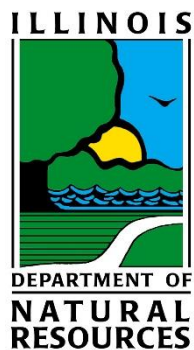
2018-19 Waterfowl Hunting Season Dates

Waterfowl hunting seasons in Illinois for 2018-19 include 60-day duck seasons in each of the state's four waterfowl hunting zones, along with 107 days of Canada goose hunting opportunity in the North and Central zones (15 days in September, two days of youth hunting and 90 days of "regular" goose season), 100 days of Canada goose hunting opportunity in the South Central Zone, and 88 days of Canada goose hunting opportunity in the South Zone. Goose season lengths are shorter in the South Central and South zones to coincide with duck season dates and to match hunter preferences. [For more information click here](#)



IDNR Education Department

The IDNR Division of Education offers a plethora of information through the IDNR website. Educators, scout leaders, youth group leaders, librarians, nature center personnel and the public can find information, publications, items for loan and other resources. [For more information click here](#)



Sangchris Lake Trapping Permits

A public drawing for the allocation of Sangchris Lake State Park trapping permits will be held 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 13. Registration will be at 12:30 p.m. at the site headquarters, located approximately six miles southeast of Rochester [For more information click here](#)

[For more information check out our monthly calendar of events!](#)



Visit the IDNR on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!